



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Channing D. Phillips
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PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia Man Sentenced to 121 months in Prison for Possessing and Distributing Child Pornography

WASHINGTON - Harold Reynolds, a 40-year-old resident of Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced today by the Honorable James Robertson, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, to 121 months in prison for Distribution of Child Pornography and a concurrent term of 121 months for Possession of Child Pornography followed by a 15-year term of supervised release, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy L. Lanier, and Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of The FBI's Washington Field Office. Reynolds pled guilty to the charges in June 2009.

According to the government's evidence, between December and February 2009, a member of the FBI/MPD Child Exploitation Task Force, undercover and posing as a pedophile, entered a pedophile fetish chat room. Within minutes, the defendant and the undercover began having a conversation about children. In response to the undercover's inquiry regarding the age of children that the defendant preferred, the defendant indicated that he preferred young children, stating to the undercover officer that he "loves young kids". The defendant also stated that he wanted to have sexual contact with the undercover's fictitious 9-year-old stepdaughter. The defendant admitted to the undercover officer that he had abused a little girl who was five years old. During the course of the chat, the defendant sent multiple still images of female children under 10 years old have sexual contact with adult males.

On February 9, 2009, the defendant was arrested at his home in Norfolk, Virginia. Defendant confirmed that he did have sexual contact with a 5-year-old child several years ago. Members of the Task Force subsequently identified the victim and investigated the sexual abuse. The investigation corroborated the defendant's admission that he had abused the child.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the District of Columbia MPD/FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the quick action and investigative work, during this Project Safe Childhood initiative, of a joint task force consisting of Metropolitan Police Department Detective Timothy Palchak, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents, and U.S. Attorney's Office investigator John Marsh. Mr. Phillips also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Julieanne Himmelstein and William Woodruff, who prosecuted the case.

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